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the field of Greek scholarship to-day. The brief bibliographies given at the end of each chapter are selected with judgment. The land system of the Seleucids with its vast estates held in fief from the crown and controlled from four-turreted manorial castles; the amazing information brought in recent years from the Turfan oasis, which shows the influence of Hellenism upon early Buddhism and the Orient in general; the results of numberless recent studies in the organization and administration of Ptolemaic Egypt, as summed up in the Mitteis-Wilcken *Grundzüge und Chrestomathie*—all this and much more is easy grist to the writer's mill.

The book is full of interesting quotations chosen from ancient authors and of modern, often personal, interpretations. In dealing with the imperialism of Alexander and his successors, Mr. Ferguson has made much of the recently acquired understanding of their demand for worship as gods. It was used as a means of establishing that legitimacy as rulers which these Macedonian nobles otherwise lacked. The imperialistic policy of the Ptolemies of the third century Mr. Ferguson explains as necessitated by the absence of warlike material in Egypt itself and the need of keeping in close touch with the Hellenic cities of the Aegean and Asia Minor as the source "of their stock of reliable soldiers". Although this idea is elaborated with great skill (pp. 162-172), it is not convincing. Mercenaries could be hired in the open market, if one had the money. The power of Carthage at that very time must have made this evident to the astute Ptolemies. And they surely understood the gentle art of extracting money from the ever-fertile soil along the Nile through the 7,000,000 human ants who worked it so patiently.

W. L. WESTERMANN.

*A Source Book for Ancient Church History, from the Apostolic Age to the Close of the Conciliar Period.* By JOSEPH CULLEN AYER, jr., Ph.D., Professor of Ecclesiastical History, Divinity School of the Protestant Episcopal Church, Philadelphia. (New York: Charles Scribner's Sons. 1913. Pp. xxi, 707.)

THE use of source-books for the study and teaching of history has now become well established. They exist for many fields of work and have contributed much to the vitalizing of historical instruction. Until now, however, there has been in English no such aid to the study of early church history. It is especially gratifying that the volume before us is avowedly a product of that school of church historians who for now more than a generation have been presenting the history of the Church as an integral and inseparable part of the history of mankind. Its inception was due to the American Society of Church History in its latest incarnation under the leadership of the late Samuel Macauley Jackson, but for its completion we are indebted to the persistent energy of its editor, Dr. Joseph Cullen Ayer, jr., of the Episcopal Divinity School at Philadelphia.

With the obvious advantages of all such collections of material there go certain inevitable defects. The limitation of size compels rigid exclusion of whatever does not seem to the editor of general significance; and yet every good teacher has his own personal ideas as to comparative values. He would like to put before his pupils a great deal of what specially interests him and would gladly leave out much that the editor of a source-book, looking at the matter from a more general point of view, feels obliged to put in. Perfectly to suit all readers, or even any one reader, seems, therefore, practically out of the question. The most the editor can expect is that every teacher and student shall find within his field some illustrative material that will be helpful to him, and it is this expectation that must govern the selection of extracts to be printed.

Again, the method of arrangement may make or mar the usefulness of the book. The danger here is of scrappiness, of presenting a disjointed collection of quotations which cannot be thought of as offering even a skeleton for the substance of the student's knowledge. This danger, inseparable from all processes of selection, may be reduced by careful grouping, under well-chosen headings, and by an orderly progression which will suggest the actual movement of history. The skeleton, in other words, if properly articulated, may be a very positive aid to the laying on of the flesh.

These primary requirements of a useful source-book are well met in the present volume. In the first place the field is limited to the first eight Christian centuries, quite wide enough range for a generously printed book of seven hundred pages. The division is fairly equal throughout, though one might have expected a comparatively larger allowance of space for the first three centuries. The arrangement follows well-known precedents in its grouping according to outward and internal relations. Doctrinal developments are traced as closely as possible in sections by themselves. Personal and biographical details are subordinated almost completely to the larger historical and speculative points of view.

It was a serious problem to determine how far, if at all, the selections should be accompanied by explanatory or introductory matter, and opinions will probably differ as to the solution here offered. Of continuous narrative there is none, but short paragraphs of narration are placed at the beginning of chapters and sections and serve to keep up the effect of continuity which holds the several selections together. More could hardly have been done, and the editor expressly reminds us that the parallel use of a text-book of church history is presumed. It may, perhaps, fairly be suggested that these connecting paragraphs might have been set in smaller type and space thus gained for more selections. It would have been convenient if a table of abbreviations for bibliographical references could have been inserted.

The translations appear to be of even merit. They have generally

been made by the editor, and when not so made have been revised in accordance with recent scholarship. In those we have been able to verify there is a commendable effort to reproduce the exact meaning of the original without the sacrifice of smoothness in the English reading. We do not hesitate to commend the volume, not only to teachers of church history, but to all teachers working within the period it covers.

*Geschichte der Römischen Kaiser.* Von ALFRED VON DOMASZEWSKI, Professor an der Universität in Heidelberg. Zweite Auflage. In two volumes. (Leipzig: Quelle und Meyer. 1914. Pp. viii, 324; iv, 328.)

THE first edition of this history appeared in 1909. It was an attempt to fill the gap left by Mommsen's failure to write volume IV. of his Roman history and was announced as "eine Mommsen ebenbürtige Arbeit". The work now appears in the second edition and it is evidently filling a demand.

As the title indicates, this is a history not of the empire but of the emperors. As against Mommsen's *Provinces* the emphasis is here placed on the personality of the emperors and on the continuity and unity of their *Reichspolitik*. In dedicating his history *Deutschen Lesern*, Domaszewski had in mind the dual importance of the Roman Empire as at once the background for our present-day civilization and as a warning example to his German readers of the decline of an imperial state which was without a sound economic, military, and national cultural basis (I. 1-8). It is frankly a work of popularization intended for the educated German public, but it is also the work of a thorough scholar and an expert in the field covered by the two volumes. Both of these facts must be borne in mind in forming an estimate of this *Geschichte der Römischen Kaiser*.

The treatment is strictly chronological and covers the period from the assassination of Julius Caesar to the accession of Diocletian. A glance at the economy of the two volumes, however, is disconcerting. The entire first volume is devoted to Augustus and Tiberius, and almost one-half of volume II. is given over to the thirty-three years from the death of Tiberius to the accession of Vespasian. This leaves but 177 pages (a little more than a fourth of the whole) for the important period from the Flavian emperors to Diocletian. Such a distribution of material hardly inspires confidence in the author's judgment, even though it be generally conceded that the first sixty-four years of the principate were decisive. (Domaszewski is hardly justified in allotting 155 of a total of 309 pages to the years 44-27 B. C.) In a work intended for the general public, the obligation rests all the more heavily on the historian not merely to present the facts, but to present the facts in their proper perspective and proportion. Though Domaszewski has made